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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for backing up and restoring an application program including an application program configuration, the application program associated with a computer that includes an operating system with a common applications 5 registry, the method comprising:

creating an image backup of one or more storage media that store files associated with the application program;

10 creating an initial application program backup of the application program including backing up information associated with the application program including at least files associated with the application program, said information associated with the application program being identified in a backup database;

15 periodically inventorying the one or more storage media to detect a change in a file the information associated with the application program; and

responsive to a detected change, creating an update application program backup of the application program including backing up files the information associated with the application program; and

20 restoring the application program to a state corresponding to a selected creation date by copying information contained in an application program backup having the selected creation date onto the one or more storage media without otherwise modifying or affecting the operating system and other application programs.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the creating of an update application program backup does not overwrite the initial application program backup or any previous update application program backup.

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3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein each application program backup is dated with a creation date.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3, further including:

deleting an application program backup having an oldest creation date of a plurality of application program backups responsive to both of:

a number of application program backups exceeding a selected number, and

10 a time interval between a present date and the oldest creation date exceeding a selected time interval.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the restoring further includes:

prior to the copying of information contained in the application program backup, copying the image backup onto the one 5 or more storage media.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further including:

responsive to a detected change, categorizing the detected change as one of normal and suspicious; and

5 responsive to a suspicious detected change, notifying a human of the suspicious detected change.

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8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 7, further including:

responsive to a suspicious detected change, waiting to receive an approval from the human before creating the update application program backup.

9. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, further including:

repeating the steps of creating an initial application program backup, periodically inventorying the one or more storage media to detect a change in a ~~file~~ the information associated with the application program, and creating an update application program backup responsive to a detected change for at least a second application program.

10. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of periodically inventorying the one or more storage media to detect a change in a ~~file~~ the information associated with the application program is performed responsive to a regular operation of the computer.

11. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the information associated with the application program identified in the backup database includes information stored in a flash interface memory, and wherein:

5 the step of periodically inventorying further includes detecting a change in contents of a ~~non volatile~~ the flash interface memory which pertain to the application program; and

the step of creating an update application program backup further includes recording the contents of the ~~non-volatile~~ flash interface memory which pertain to the application program.

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12. (Currently amended) The method system as set forth in
~~claim 1 claim 18~~, wherein the files associated with the
application program include stored information pertaining to the
application program and its configuration identified in the
5 application program backup database includes entries of a the
common applications registry, and the steps of creating an
initial application program backup and of creating an update
application program backup each further include:
10 ~~recording entries of the common application registry that~~
~~pertain to the application program.~~

13. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further including:

transferring the application program including the
application program configuration to a second computer by copying
5 information contained in an application program backup onto the
one or more storage media that are accessible by the second
computer.

14. (Original) A system for backing up and restoring an
application program including an application program
configuration, the application program associated with a computer
that includes an operating system with a common applications
5 registry, the system comprising:

an application program backup software program for creating
an application program backup of the application program
including copies of files associated with the application program
that reside on one or more storage media and copies of entries of
10 the common applications registry pertaining to the application
program, the application program backup software program

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assigning a creation date to each created application program backup corresponding to a date of creation thereof;

15 a backup coordinating software program that invokes the application program backup software program to create an initial application program backup, periodically inventories the one or more storage media to detect one of a change in a file associated with the application program and a change in an entry of the common applications registry pertaining to the application program, and invokes the application program backup software program to create an update application program backup responsive to a detected change; and

25 a restore software program for restoring the application program to a state corresponding to a selected creation date by copying information contained in an application program backup having the selected creation date onto the one or more storage media.

15. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 14, further including:

an application program backup manager that deletes an application program backup responsive to:

5 a number of application program backups exceeding a selected number, and

a time interval between a present date and the creation date of the application program backup that exceeds a selected time interval.

16. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 14, further including:

an image backup software program for creating an image backup of the one or more storage media; and

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5 an image restore software program for copying the image backup onto the one or more storage media;

wherein upon initiation of execution of the restore software program and responsive to a selected user input, the restore software program invokes the image restore software program prior
10 to the copying of information contained in an application program backup onto the one or more storage media.

17. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the computer is connected to a server system, and the application program backup is stored on the server system.

18. (Currently amended) The A system as set forth in claim 14, further including for backing up and restoring an application program including its configuration without altering other application programs, the system comprising:

5 an application program backup database accessed by the application program backup software program and the backup coordinating software program containing information that identifies the stored information including at least files and the entries of the common applications registry that pertain to
10 the application program and its configuration, the stored information identified by the application program backup database being complete information sufficient for a complete restoration of the application program together with its configuration;

15 backup software configured to copy the stored information pertaining to the application program identified by the application program backup database to create a backup copy of the application program together with its configuration at a date of the backup; and

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20 the backup copy, the application program together with its configuration at the date of the backup without modifying or affecting other application programs.

19. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 18, further including, wherein the application program backup database further contains information that identifies stored information including at least a second application program backup database accessed by the application program backup software program and the backup coordinating software program that identifies files and the entries of the common applications registry that that pertain to a second application program, wherein the application program backup software program and the backup coordinating software program cooperate to periodically is configured to create a an application program backup copy of the second application program responsive to a detected change in one of a file associated with the second application program and an entry of the common applications registry pertaining to the second application program and the restore software is configured to selectively restore, based on the backup copy of the second application program, the second application program together with its configuration at the date of the backup without modifying or affecting other application programs.

20. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the backup coordinating software program includes:

a change classifier that classifies a detected change as one of a normal change and a suspicious change; and
5 a user notification module that notifies a user of a detected suspicious change.

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21. (Currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

the backup coordinating software program further detects a change in contents of a ~~non-volatile~~ flash interface memory which pertain to the application program; and

the application program backup software program records the contents of the ~~non-volatile~~ flash interface memory which pertain to the application program in the created application program backup.